

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION**

SHANEICE RASH, 2625 Bridgestone Dr., Columbus, OH 43219	:	Case No.:
	:	COMPLAINT
Plaintiff,	:	Jury Demand Endorsed Hereon.
vs.	:	
MERCANTILE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU, LLC, a foreign corporation, c/o Corporation Service Company 50 West Broad Street, Suite 1330 Columbus OH 43215,	:	
Defendant.	:	

**NOW COMES THE PLAINTIFF, SHANEICE RASH, BY AND THROUGH
COUNSEL, RICHARD P. GABELMAN, and for her Complaint against the Defendants,
pleads as follows:**

JURISDICTION

1. This court has jurisdiction under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (“FDCPA”), 15 U.S.C. §1692k(d) and 28 U.S.C. §§1331,1337.

VENUE

2. Venue is proper in the Southern District of Ohio as the Defendant conducts business in the entire State of Ohio.

PARTIES

3. Shaneice Rash is an individual residing in the city of Columbus, Ohio in Franklin County.
4. Mercantile Adjustment Bureau, LLC is a foreign corporation that conducts business in the State of Ohio.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

5. Defendant is attempting to collect a consumer type debt allegedly owed by Plaintiff to American Electric Power in the amount of \$171.00 (“the Alleged Debt”).
6. Plaintiff disputes the Alleged Debt.
7. On March 16, 2020, Plaintiff obtained her Trans Union credit disclosure and noticed Defendant reporting the Alleged Debt.
8. On or about April 15, 2020, Plaintiff sent Defendant a letter disputing the alleged Debt.
9. On June 30, 2020, Plaintiff obtained her Trans Union credit disclosure, which showed Defendant last reported the tradeline reflected by the Alleged Debt to Trans Union on May 28, 2020 and failed or refused to flag the tradeline as disputed, in violation of the FDCPA.
10. In the credit reporting industry, data furnishers, such as the Defendant, communicate electronically with the credit bureaus.

11. Defendant had more than ample time to instruct Experian, Equifax, and Trans Union to flag its trade line as Disputed.
12. Defendant's inaction to have its trade line on Plaintiff's credit reports flagged as disputed was either negligent or willful.
13. Plaintiff suffered pecuniary and emotional damages as a result of Defendant's actions. Her credit report continues to be damaged due to the Defendant's failure to properly report the associated tradelines.

VIOLATION OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

14. Plaintiff reincorporates the preceding allegations by reference.
15. At all relevant times, Defendant, in the ordinary course of its business, regularly engaged in the practice of collecting debts on behalf of other individuals or entities.
16. Plaintiff is a "consumer" for purposes of the FDCPA, and the account at issue in this case is a consumer debt.
17. Defendant is a "debt collector" under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act ("FDCPA"), 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6).
18. Defendant's foregoing acts in attempting to collect this Alleged Debt violated the following provisions of the FDCPA:

a. 15 U.S.C. §1692e(8) by communicating to any person credit information which is known to be false or which should be known to be false, including failure to report a disputed debt as disputed.

19. To date, and a direct and proximate cause of the Defendant's failure to honor its statutory obligations under the FDCPA, the Plaintiff has continued to suffer from a degraded credit report and credit score.

20. Plaintiff has suffered economic, emotional, general, and statutory damages as a result of these violations of the FDCPA.

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF PRAYS that this court grant her a judgment against Defendant for actual damages, costs, interest, and attorneys' fees.

PRAAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendant for Actual Damages; Statutory Damages; Damages for pecuniary, economic and emotional damages and loss; Attorney's Fees and the costs of this action.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by Jury.

Dated: September 25, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Richard P. Gabelman

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